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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Indochina

SUBJECT Liaison Between the Binh Xuyen
and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

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1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) action committee in South Vietnam has designated Huynh Van Vien, aka Muoi Tri,¹ as DRV representative for liaison with Vietnamese nationalist groups in the south. Tri, a former member of the Binh Xuyen forces under Bay Vien, became commander of the DRV 4 Company in the Duc Hoa (106-26, 10-50) area of Cholon Province after the arrival of Japanese forces in Vietnam. In 1946, Tri had further contact with nationalist leaders after the formation of the National Union Front at Ba Queo, near Duc Hoa. Groups included in the front were the Cao Dai, represented by Tran Quang Vinh, the Hoa Hao by Huynh Phu So and the Binh Xuyen by Le Van Vien.
2. Following the defection of Bay Vien to the French in 1948, the DRV dispatched Muoi Tri to Ha Tien in Intersector X in order to prevent further contact between the two and a possible spread in nationalist defections. After assuring themselves of Tri's Communist orientation, however, the DRV named him chief of the Dich Van (section for liaison with the enemy) in order to exploit his former friendship with non-Communist nationalist leaders. Tri has been instructed to aim, not for a few isolated defections, but for the defection of a large mass of armed nationalists. Toward this end, he has been instructed to use the argument that a large nationalist underground movement would be able to throw over the Communist leadership, once the liberation of the country had been achieved. All letters sent by Muoi Tri to his nationalist friends are dictated by the Communists.
3. Following several approaches by Muoi Tri, Bay Vien agreed to resume contact with the DRV in December 1950 when, in response to an invitation from the action committee of South Vietnam, he dispatched Le Huu Nghia, aka Muoi Nghia, to meet with Muoi Tri. Muoi Nghia is also an intimate friend of Muoi Tri. In addition to arranging for negotiations between the Binh Xuyen and the DRV, Bay Vien charged Muoi Nghia with the personal gift of a watch with a diamond-set gold wristband for Muoi Tri. Nghia was also instructed to escort Vien's third wife and their child back to Binh Xuyen headquarters. She had been arrested by the DRV after Vien's defection and was later released under the custody of Muoi Tri in Ha Tien.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

- 2 -

4. Nghia was received by Professor Tran Van Nguyen, Political Inspector of the western zones, who acted as representative of the Administrative and Resistance Committee of South Vietnam. Although the exact provisions of the negotiations were not disclosed, Nghia asserts that his mission was extremely successful. Vien's request that his wife be released was accepted by the DRV; she refused to return, however, accusing him of having acquired several new wives since his defection.
5. Muoi Nghia is currently acting as liaison between Bay Vien and the Cao Dai Chief of Staff, Col. Trinh Minh The.
6. In April 1951, the Administrative and Resistance Committee of South Vietnam created a special mission for relations with Bay Vien, which has its headquarters near Kinh Nuoc Man, 10 kilometers east of Bay Vien's headquarters. Three unarmed Binh Xuyen representatives, wearing khaki uniforms with the Binh Xuyen insignia, meet with the committee each Tuesday and Friday at 10 a.m. After meeting with Cong An representatives they are permitted to circulate freely and usually return to Binh Xuyen headquarters about 4 p.m. They are often driven part way by a truck, [redacted] driven by a Binh Xuyen soldier. 25X1
7. DRV liaison with Saigon-Cholon is currently insured by a single route via Binh Xuyen territory.

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